

homeland and set apart by the cruelest of persecutions, should have disappeared.

But history is not able to reckon with the Jewish people. Instead of disappearing, the Jews flourished under the Lord's protective eye, developing a vast treasure of religious literature and a way of life that stressed lifelong learning and a striving to lead a moral life.

Through inquisition and torture, through religious coercion and unendurable pain, the Jewish people held firm to their religious foundations. Here, in our own century, occurred the Holocaust, the most monstrous and inhuman evil that mankind has ever inflicted upon itself. Six million Jews, one and half million of them children, were systematically murdered. One-third of the Jewish people in the world died during the Holocaust.

Even during these darkest hours of the Holocaust, when all hope for the Jewish people seemed to have disappeared, when their very future hung on the edge of despair, they persevered. Then came Israel.

The modern vision of a Jewish state, nourished by an historic attachment to the land of Israel, was given expression by the Viennese journalist Theodor Herzl, who organized the First Zionist Congress in 1897. When the Congress was ended, Herzl noted in his diary that the Jewish state would come into being in 50 years. It was exactly 50 years later that Israel was born.

On May 14, 1948, David Ben Gurion announced the birth of the modern Jewish nation. A day later, Arab armies attacked in full force, in an attempt to kill it before it had a chance to be born. After a bitter struggle for its very life, against overwhelming odds and trained armies, Israel prevailed. Their nation would not die. Masada would not fall again. David Ben-Gurion, the first Prime Minister and Menachem Begin, who would later become Prime Minister, both contributed mightily to Israel's birth. The number of heroes in Israel's birth is innumerable.

Over the course of the past 50 years, Israel has had to continually fight for its survival. In both 1956 and 1967, Israel had to defend itself against the attacks of its antagonistic neighbors. The Six Day War of '67 was particularly difficult for Israel. When the war was over, Israel gained control over all of Jerusalem including the Western Wall, the most sacred site in Jewish life because it is the last remaining part of the Second Temple. The Jews had returned to their land and to their holy city. In many ways, they returned to history itself.

Still, wars followed, though some Arab nations have come to see the need for peace. However, to this day, many Arabs have not reconciled themselves to the permanent existence of Israel. Terrorists, rogue nations, and bitter and implacable enemies continue to threaten Israel. Yet at 50, Israel has never been stronger.

Perhaps, especially for the Jews, but finally for all decent people, the very existence of Israel remains a symbol. Israel's historic return as a nation offers hope and reassurance for people the world over who are struggling to realize their own homeland. Israel's refusal to surrender to enduring horrors provides a model of courage for those in need of strength. Israel's commitment to democracy and religious freedom is a wonderful example for those who believe that nations can be both strong and decent.

Israel will always possess a special place in the heart and mind of the United States. Israel is, of course, a vital military ally, paramount in its support of the U.S. in the United Nations, and a dependable military source of information and support. Beyond these prudential reasons, however, Israel means much more to us. Sentinels of democracy, both nations were founded in pursuit of the righteous cause of liberty and human dignity. Citizens of both great nations have sacrificed their own lives in defense of freedom and in battle against tyranny. Neither America nor Israel is willing to accept the exploitation and oppression of innocent people by despotic rulers.

The truth is that Israel is not just another nation; it is part of our family. As one brother to another, we in the United States rejoice as we celebrate Israel's 50th birthday. Let us use this moment to vow to stand forever by Israel's side. Let every enemy of Israel know that the United States stands firmly beside Israel. We will never be silent when Israel is in danger. We will never let Israel's enemies win.

We stand with Israel. We wait in excitement to witness the miraculous achievements that Israel will have in the next 50 years.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker. This week we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel, a truly momentous occasion. For Jews in Israel, America, and around the world this is a time of great celebration.

For 50 years, Israel has struggled to survive in a region of hostility, surrounded by neighbors who sought to destroy her. For 50 years, Israel has labored to transform a desert into a land of milk and honey and for 50 years, Israel has become a beacon of democracy, a land of freedom and a homeland for Jews everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, let us join together in wishing Israel a happy 50th and a hearty "mazel tov."

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 102.

The question was taken.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETIREMENT OF HON. GERALD B. SOLOMON, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON RULES

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues, and I know that my friend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, will want to be recognized, to

say how saddened and surprised we all were, but we certainly respect the decision that was made by the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), chairman of the Committee on Rules, yesterday that, after 20 years of service as a Member of the United States Congress, and after a career in public life that expands 31 years, he has chosen to retire at the end of this term.

He, of course, has many more vigorous and active months left as chairman of the Committee on Rules. But I would like to say that, as we think about his stellar service in this institution, it has been a great honor for me to be part of a very important team.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) has been on the front line of so many battles here in the Congress. He has been very active. He was, as was pointed out in the New York Times today, clearly the most influence member of the New York delegation serving in the Congress, and he was a member of Ronald Reagan's core group of individuals who provided him with a great deal of advice and assistance throughout President Reagan's campaigns and during the time that the President served.

So I am one who will say that I clearly am going to miss my colleague. He clearly always makes his presence known when he is here in the House of Representatives, because he carried that great binder that had his name inscribed on it. So we will be seeing that again before we hope the 105th Congress adjourns sine die the first of October. But I can tell my colleagues, when the 106th Congress convenes, we clearly miss that. He has been a great leader who has stood by principle very, very passionately and diligently.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), distinguished Chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for bringing this issue to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, as senior Republican in the New York State congressional delegation, I want to express my shock and my sadness to the surprising announcement that our dear colleague the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), a senior member of our New York delegation, has now chosen to leave this body at the end of this congressional session.

I came to know and admire my colleague soon after he came to the Congress in 1978. His experiences as a United States marine, and he reminded us of that service continually, as a town supervisor, as a county legislator, as a member of the New York State Assembly, as well as his experience in the insurance business and real estate business brought to this Chamber the unique combination of experience of balance and of common sense.

I especially appreciate the gentleman from New York championing the cause of our POWs and MIAs in Southeast

Asia. He earned a reputation for his leadership on that issue and many important issues, and I know my colleagues join with me in expressing our appreciation for the judicious manner in which he has chaired the House Committee on Rules for the past 3 years. He has always been the epitome of fairness and expertise.

Congress' loss is a gain for Freda and their five children. We wish the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) and his family good health, happiness, and success in years ahead.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his contribution.

I would like to say that I, too, enjoyed working with the gentleman from New York on that very important issue of POWs and MIAs, and I had the privilege of traveling with the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) to Southeast Asia as we continue to remain committed to bringing about a full resolution and accounting of all those still classified as missing in action.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), my very dear friend and fellow Californian.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add my words of best wishes and sorrow at our colleague's decision to leave. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) has been one of the most energetic, committed, serious, decent Members of this body. I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with him on a wide range of issues, but two of those stand out in my memory. One, of course, was his determination to get to the bottom of the POW-MIA issue. And the second one, a generic issue, was his passionate commitment to human rights.

As the Democratic chairman of the Human Rights caucus, I never had a more dependable and reliable ally on any human rights issue than the gentleman from the State of New York. He passionately felt the plight and pain of people persecuted or discriminated against anywhere on the face of this planet, and his strong voice for human rights will be sorely missed.

I also want to join the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and my friend the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) in expressing our best wishes to his very fine wife, who was a full partner and companion in all of his endeavors, and to all of his fine children. And I am sure on our side all of us deeply regret his departure.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his contribution.

I would simply close this 1-minute, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I, too, extend best wishes to Freda and to all the members of the Solomon family. I had the opportunity to travel with the Solomons right into the district of my colleague, to Lake Placid, New York. I still am carrying the burden of that on my wrist, because he insured that I

would go straight forward down the bobsled run, and I am still trying to recover from that. It took a while for me to have the guts to do it, but with my colleague pushing me on, I had no choice whatsoever but to go straight ahead in pursuing that.

I would say in closing, Mr. Speaker, that we will continue to hear from the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON). In the next week or so, I will be privileged to distribute to all of our colleagues a book on NATO expansion that he has just authored for the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

So the gentleman from New York is here. He is going to remain very active in this institution for the next several months, but we know that he will be retiring as the 106th Congress approaches. And I know everyone in this institution joins me in extending very best wishes and godspeed to our colleague and his family.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1702

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS) at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 218, de novo;

Senate Concurrent Resolution 37, de novo; and

House Joint Resolution 102, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

CONCERNING AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 218, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BE-REUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 218, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 1, not voting 40, as follows:

[Roll No 110]

YEAS—391

Abercrombie	Crapo	Hefley
Ackerman	Cubin	Hefner
Aderholt	Cummings	Herger
Allen	Cunningham	Hill
Andrews	Danner	Hilleary
Archer	Davis (FL)	Hilliard
Armey	Davis (IL)	Hinchey
Bachus	Davis (VA)	Hinojosa
Baker	Deal	Hobson
Baldacci	DeFazio	Hoekstra
Ballenger	DeGette	Holden
Barcia	Delahunt	Hooley
Barrett (NE)	DeLauro	Horn
Barrett (WI)	DeLay	Hostettler
Bartlett	Deutsch	Houghton
Barton	Diaz-Balart	Hoyer
Bass	Dickey	Hulshof
Becerra	Dicks	Hunter
Bentsen	Dingell	Hutchinson
Bereuter	Doggett	Istook
Berman	Dooley	Jackson (IL)
Berry	Doolittle	Jackson-Lee
Bilirakis	Doyle	(TX)
Bishop	Dreier	Jenkins
Blagojevich	Duncan	John
Bliley	Dunn	Johnson (CT)
Blumenauer	Edwards	Johnson (WI)
Boehlert	Ehlers	Johnson, E. B.
Boehner	Ehrlich	Johnson, Sam
Bonilla	Emerson	Jones
Bonior	English	Kanjorski
Bono	Etheridge	Kaptur
Borski	Evans	Kasich
Boswell	Everett	Kelly
Boucher	Ewing	Kennedy (MA)
Boyd	Farr	Kennedy (RI)
Brady	Fattah	Kennelly
Brown (CA)	Fawell	Kildee
Brown (FL)	Fazio	Kilpatrick
Brown (OH)	Filner	Kim
Bryant	Forbes	Kind (WI)
Bunning	Ford	King (NY)
Burr	Fossella	Kingston
Burton	Fowler	Klecza
Buyer	Fox	Klink
Callahan	Frank (MA)	Klug
Calvert	Franks (NJ)	Knollenberg
Camp	Frelinghuysen	Kolbe
Campbell	Frost	Kucinich
Canady	Furse	LaFalce
Cannon	Gallegly	LaHood
Capps	Gekas	Lampson
Cardin	Gephardt	Lantos
Carson	Gibbons	Largent
Castle	Gilchrest	Latham
Chabot	Gillmor	LaTourette
Chambliss	Gilman	Lazio
Chenoweth	Goodlatte	Leach
Clay	Goodling	Lee
Clayton	Gordon	Levin
Clement	Goss	Lewis (CA)
Clyburn	Graham	Lewis (GA)
Coble	Granger	Lewis (KY)
Coburn	Green	Linder
Collins	Gutierrez	Lipinski
Combust	Gutknecht	Livingston
Condit	Hall (OH)	LoBiondo
Conyers	Hall (TX)	Lowey
Cooksey	Hamilton	Lucas
Costello	Hansen	Luther
Cox	Hastert	Maloney (CT)
Coyne	Hastings (FL)	Manton
Cramer	Hastings (WA)	Manzullo
Crane	Hayworth	Markey